

Statement of Mrs. Edward W. Hall taken at her home, 23 Nichol Avenue, New Brunswick, New Jersey, by Joachim Wichmann, Assistant Official Stenographic Reporter of Middlesex County, upon questioning by Timothy H. Pfeiffer, Esq.

BY MR. PFELFFER:

Q Mrs. Hall, when were you and Mr. Hall married?

A In 1911.

Q Do you remember the date? A July 20, 1911.

Q At the time of your marriage how old were you and how old was Mr. Hall? A He was thirty and I was thirty-seven.

Q Following your marriage you and Mr. Hall lived here in the Stevens household continuously, did you not?

A Yes.

Q Your mother lived here until her death in 1919?

A Yes.

Q When did she die? A October 9, 1919.

Q And your brother, Mr. William Stevens, also lived here?

A Yes, he always lived here too.

Q On September 14, 1922, who were the employees in and around the house, and give the work that they did, Mrs.

Hall? A There was Barbara Tough, chambermaid and seamstress; and Louise Geist, waitress; and Maria Gildes, cook; and Peter Tummity, who was gardener.

Q Now, how long had Barbara Tough been employed by you?

A Nearly seven years.

Q How long had Louise Geist?

A I don't know if it was a year or two years. She had been here previously and lived here for a few months.

Q And then came back? A And came back, yes. I don't remember the times.

Q Prior to September 14, 1922, she had been in your employ a second time for about how long? A I don't remember, but I should think a year and a half.

Q Maria Gilda had been employed for how long?

A She had been here about two years.

Q And Peter Tumulty, how long? A Peter Tumulty had been here prior to September 14 about two weeks.

Q He is a man who has been in the employ of one or more members of your family for many years, has he not?

A Yes.

Q How many automobiles did you have on September 14, 1922?

A Two.

Q What were they? A Dodge sedan and a Case touring car.

Q Who drove those cars? A Mr. Hall and I both drove them. I did not drive the Case, however.

Q Mr. Hall drove both the Case and the Dodge? A Yes.

Q And you drove only the Dodge? A Yes.

Q Did Peter sometimes drive the Dodge?

A Very occasionally. He had only been here two weeks.

Q Did your brother William Stevens drive an automobile?

A Not at all, never.

Q So far as you know he had never driven a car? A Never.

Q And he did not know how to drive a car?

A Did not know how.

Q Will you state what you know about the revolver that was in the house and belonged to Mr. Stevens?

A I don't know when he got it.

Q Was it several years prior to 1922?

A Oh, yes, some years before. Several years.

Q Where did he keep it? A I don't really know. I don't know where it was.

Q Did you have any conversation with Mr. Hall about that revolver prior to September 14?

A Yes, at least two years before. We were always afraid that he might in some way hurt himself with it and we took the revolver and--what is it, the firing pin? Something was filed down.

Q Who took it, do you know? A Mr. Hall did it.

Q Was it known to your brother that Mr. Hall had had the firing pin filed down? A No.

Q Did Mr. Hall himself file the firing pin? A Yes.

Q In your presence? A I think not. That I don't remember.

Q Did you know that your brother kept bullets, kept loaded shells in the pistol? A I think I must have seen it at that time, but I do not recollect particularly.

Q And did Mr. Hall put the pistol back where he had found it? A I think so.

Q And nothing was said to your brother about it? A No.

Q Did you ever see your brother fire off that pistol?

A No, never.

Q So far as you know did he ever take it out of the house on Fourth of July or at any other time?

A I never knew of his taking it out.

Q Did he ever talk about the pistol?

A No, I don't remember that he ever did.

Q Do you remember any incident that might have occurred which called the attention of Mr. Hall and yourself to the pistol so that you concluded it would be wise to have the firing pin filed down?

A No. We knew that he had it, but I don't remember any conversation about it, but I think-- I don't know just why he had it. I think he thought he might shoot a cat or something of that kind, and I was afraid if he tried to shoot anything, a cat or something around the house, someone might be injured or he might injure himself with it. I never knew of his firing it at any time.

Q Do you recall going to Lavellette on June 23, 1922, in the automobile with Mr. Hall and Mr. and Mrs. Gossline?

A I know we went. I don't remember the date.

p6

Q You know it was in the Summer of 1922?

A I presume so. I would not be sure of that.

Q You do remember, however, that you went to Lavelette?

A Yes.

Q What was the purpose of that trip? A Just a picnic.

Q Do you recall whether or not the specific purpose was to look for a camp site for the church camp?

A I don't remember. I am not sure about that.

Q Do you remember being there and talking with your brother Henry and his wife? A Yes.

Q Is there anything that stands out in your mind of the happenings of that day? A Nothing at all. I hardly remember the day.

Q Do you remember whether your brother Henry and Mr. Hall were in bathing together? A I don't remember.

Q Did you have lunch at the Stevens house?

A No. We took our lunch with us.

Q Did you eat it on the beach? A I think so. I am not sure about that. I think we did. I don't remember the day at all now.

Q Do you remember Mr. Hall saying that there did not seem to be a suitable camp site at Lavelette?

A At some time he spoke of that, but I don't know when. I imagine that was the reason of going down.

P 7

Q When did you and Mr. Hall leave for your vacation in 1922?

A It was the end of July, but what the date was I do not remember.

Q Where did you go? A We went to Maine.

Q Will you explain the route that you took from the time you left New Brunswick?

A We went from here to New York and took the boat leaving New York at five to Boston, and reached Boston early in the morning. We spent the day in Boston and took the night boat to Rockland.

Q Do you remember what you did in Boston, Mrs. Hall?

A I think we went out to the Museum in the morning, and went to the State House I know, and I think we went to the movies in the afternoon.

Q You reached Rockland the next morning, didn't you?

A Yes, early the next morning.

Q And from there where did you go?

A And from there we took another boat to Seal Harbor, reaching there somewhere about between ten o'clock, I think, and from there we took a launch and went to Islesfort.

Q Had you spent previous vacations at Islesfort with Mr.

Hall? A Yes. That was the third one in succession. We had been there other years.

Q Did you have a cottage or did you live in a hotel or a

- boarding house? A We lived in a boarding house.
- Q Did you have one room? A We had two rooms in a separate house, one bedroom and the other just more of a dressing room.
- Q And you and Mr. Hall slept in the same room? A Yes.
- Q How long were you in Islesfort? A I think it was three weeks.
- Q While you were at Islesfort did Mr. Hall receive any letters or cards from Mrs. Mills? A Yes.
- Q Do you remember how many? A I knew of about two.
- Q Were they postal cards or letters? A Letters.
- Q Did Mr. Hall show them to you? A Yes.
- Q And you read them? A Yes.
- Q Did you receive any letters or postal cards from Mrs. Mills? A I think I had one letter.
- Q Did you show it to Mr. Hall? A Yes.
- Q Were those letters to you and Mr. Hall from Mrs. Mills personal or did they relate to church affairs, or both?
- A Both.
- Q In previous years when you had been at Islesfort on vacation do you recall whether you and Mr. Hall had received letters from Mrs. Mills? A I am sure that I had, and I imagine that he had. I do not know.
- Q While you were at Islesfort did Mr. Hall prepare postal

cards and other written material to be sent to the members of the church? A Yes.

Q What did that have to do with? A Just simply greeting cards.

Q While you were there did Mr. Hall from time to time go to Seal Harbor alone? A I only remember twice, I should think.

Q Was it in the Summer of 1922 when you were there--was there a considerable amount of fog?

A There is always a good deal of fog up there. I do not remember any more than usual.

Q Did anything occur while you were at Islesfort that indicated to your mind any change in the relationship between you and Mr. Hall? A Nothing whatever.

Q Did anything occur or come to your attention that indicated anything more than the relationship of pastor and parishioner between Mr. Hall and Mrs. Mills?

A Nothing.

Q Before going to Maine in the Summer of 1922, did any information in any manner whatever come to you of any relationship between Mr. Hall and Mrs. Mills other than that normally between a pastor and a parishioner?

A Nothing whatever.

Q Now, you left Islesfort on August 23, did you not?

A We left on a Wednesday and got back on a Friday, and I don't remember the dates but we were there three weeks.

Q You went by way of Portland again? A Rockland.

Q And from there by train? A No. By boat again.

Q To where? A From Rockland to New York by boat.

Q You didn't stop at Boston on the way back?

A Stopped through the day.

Q At Boston? A Yes. They were night boats in each case.

Q You left Boston? A We left Boston in the afternoon, five o'clock, six o'clock, reached New York in the morning and came out here by train.

Q When you returned to your home was your brother William Stevens here? A I don't think so.

Q Was he still down at the seashore? A I think he was down at the Seashore.

Q Do you remember how long it was before he came back?

A He came back soon after Labor Day.

Q So you had been at home about a week or more before he returned? A Yes.

Q What was the relationship between your brother William and Mr. Hall? A Most cordial.

Q Well, was William very fond of Mr. Hall?

A Yes, I think he was.

Q Did Mr. Hall look upon William as you looked upon him?

A Do you mean affection?

Q Yes. A Yes, he was very fond of him.

Q Had you ever heard them quarrel? A Never.

Q Was your brother William a member of St. John's Church?

A No.

Q Did he attend services there at all? A No.

Q What church was he a member of? A Christ Church.

Q Had you and your mother been members of Christ Church prior to your marriage to Mr. Hall? A Yes.

Q And between the time after Labor Day that your brother William returned to the house and September 14, did anything occur that indicated to you that the relationship between Mr. Hall and your brother William had changed?

A Nothing whatever.

Q Between the time that you returned from Islesfort and September 14 did anything come to your attention concerning anything out of the way in the relationship of Mr. Hall and Mrs. Mills? A Nothing.

Q Did you see Mrs. Mills after your return from Islesfort?

A I must have.

Q Did you see her before September 13, do you remember?

A I must have seen her before that.

Q You don't recall that?

A I don't recall the special occasion, the special times.

Q On September 13 what occurred, Mrs. Hall?

A We went in the Case car for a day's picnic to Lake Hopatcong.

Q Who was in the car? A Mr. Hall and his mother in the front seat and Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Mills and myself in the rear seat.

Q Mr. Hall drove the car? A Mr. Hall drove the car.

Q Did Mrs. Hall, Sr., sit on the front seat all the way to Hopatcong? A Yes.

Q Who sat with Mr. Hall on the return? A Mrs. Hall, Sr.

Q Do you remember any of the conversation that you had with Mrs. Mills and Mrs. Clark that day? Is there anything, in other words, that sticks out in your mind?

A Nothing.

Q You had in previous years taken Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Mills on similar picnics, had you not?

A They were the year before, and the year before that I took them alone.

Q On the picnic to Lake Hopatcong on September 13 did Mr. Hall tear his trousers in climbing a fence?

A On returning. Not in climbing a fence. We were getting supper and there was some barbed wire on the ground.

Q Did you sew up his trousers right there? A Yes.

Q When you got back did you leave Mrs. Hall, Sr., at the place where she was staying? A Yes.

Q Where was she staying?

A At the Bayard on Bayard Street here in New Brunswick.

Q And then did you leave Mrs. Mills and Mrs. Clark at their respective homes? A Yes.

Q And then you and Mr. Hall returned here to your home?

A Yes.

Q Do you know what time you got home to your house?

A About nine.

Q It was after dark? A It was after dark, yes.

Q Did you and Mr. Hall retire immediately or what?

A Yes, we did.

Q You and Mr. Hall occupied the same room and a double bed in this house, did you not? A Yes.

Q And you had done so from the time of your marriage?

A Yes.

Q Does anything stand out in your memory as having occurred after your return to the house on September 13?

A Nothing.

Q Do you recall whether Mr. Hall received any telephone calls after his return on September 13?

A I have no recollection of any.

Q He did not leave the house after you got home? A No.

Q Everything was perfectly normal?

A Perfectly normal. We put the car away, came home and went upstairs to see little Frances, went right up to our room.

Q Little Frances Voorhees? A Yes.

Q Who is the daughter of Mr. Hall's sister? A Yes.

Q She had come to the house when?

A She had come that afternoon.

Q With her mother? A Her mother brought her here knowing that we would not be home. She brought her here and Barbara took care of her and gave her her supper that evening, and put her to bed.

Q That was in accordance with a previous arrangement made with her mother? A Yes.

Q How old was Frances in the year 1922? A Ten.

Q On Thursday morning can you remember just what occurred? In the first place, did you and Mr. Hall and William Stevens and little Frances have breakfast together?

A Yes.

Q What did Mr. Hall do in the morning?

A He went up to his study and stayed there, as far as I know, all morning.

Q Do you recall his receiving any telephone calls in the morning? A No. I went out.

Q Did you, the same four, have lunch together?

A I don't know that my brother was here for lunch, but we had a little girl here spending the day.

Q Who was that? A Barbara Webb.

Q Was she here playing with Frances? A Yes.

Q You had the Dodge car out in the morning, didn't you?

A Yes.

Q Now, in the afternoon what did Mr. Hall do?

A He went out soon after lunch, to a meeting at Berdine's Corners.

Q Was that to address the Parent Teachers Association?

A Yes.

Q At the school there? A I don't know where it was.

It was somewhere there. And he came back, it seems to me, around half-past three, but it might have been a

little later. I don't remember.

Q Was it as late as four or four-thirty? A Possibly.

Q Then what did he do when he came back? Did he take any

one with him to Berdine's corners?

A Not that I know of. I don't remember.

Q Then he came back, and what did he do?

A He came back and he came into the kitchen where I was and asked about what we were doing, showed interest in what

was going on, and then went out again, taking little

Frances and Barbara Webb with him. First he gathered some flowers to take to someone up in a hospital.

Q Do you know what hospital? A I think St. Peters.

There was a man there who had broken his leg.

Q Then did he come back after he went to the hospital?

A Not right away. He got his mother and I think made some calls and came back to the house well before half-past six. I don't know what time.

Q Was the little girl Frances with him all that time?

A Yes. I think he took her with him and left her there again.

Q Who had supper together? A Mr. Hall and my brother and Frances and myself.

Q Was there anything in Mr. Hall's demeanor that evening at supper or at any other time that indicated anything upon his mind? A Nothing. Perfectly normal.

Q He was his normal and usual self? A Yes.

Q What occurred after supper?

A He went upstairs and I went out on the porch for a while with little Frances, and then came in the house. I think it was while I was on the porch I heard the telephone ring. It rang a second time. Then I thought no one would answer it and so I came in, took the receiver off the hook, then heard someone upstairs answer it and put the

receiver back without hearing who spoke at all.

Q So you heard none of the conversation?

A I heard none of the conversation. I didn't hear a voice.

Q Before you got the receiver to your ear you heard someone upstairs?

A Heard Mr. Hall. Yes, I heard him take the receiver off, heard him at the telephone.

Q Did you hear Mr. Hall take it off or did you hear Mr.

Hall come to the 'phone? A I think I heard him come to the 'phone.

Q Did you hear Louise Geist's voice at the telephone upstairs?

A No.

Q Then did you return to the porch after you put the receiver on the hook?

A Yes.

Q And then what happened?

A Then a little later I came in the house and sat in the library playing a game with little Frances.

Q Had you heard anything that Mr. Hall said over the telephone?

A Nothing at all.

Q Were you in the library with little Frances when Mr. Hall came downstairs?

A Yes.

Q What did he say and what did you say?

A He came downstairs. I could not tell you just the time now. I have forgotten. And he stood in the doorway and said that he thought he would go and see about the bill

now, and I just gathered he would be out for a little while and come back again.

Q What bill did you understand he was speaking about?

A The bill for Mrs. Mills, the doctor's bill that he had charge of.

Q Did he say "Mrs. Mills' bill" or did he just say "the bill"?

A The bill, because I had given him a message before.

Q What message had you given him?

A Before supper while Mr. Hall was out Elenor Mills telephoned over and asked if he was in, and I said . She said, "will you tell him there was something about the bill I don't understand?" And I said I would.

Q What time of the day was it that she telephoned, Mrs. Hall?

A That I do not know.

Q Was it late in the afternoon?

A I think it was after he had gone out the second time.

Q Did she ask for Mr. Hall?

A Yes.

Q And then you answered the telephone?

A Yes.

Q Did she say that she had an appointment to see Mr. Hall?

A No. That was all she said.

Q And you said that you would speak to Mr. Hall about it?

A Yes.

Q And when Mr. Hall came in had you spoken to him about it?

A I did, yes.

Q So when he said as he was about to go out that he was going about "the bill" you understood what he meant?

A Yes.

Q Now, was Mrs. Mills operated on in January or February, 1922? A February, I think.

Q And for what was the operation? A Removal of her kidney.

Q Did you take Mrs. Mills to the hospital in your car?

A Yes.

Q Was Mr. Hall in the car at the time? A No.

Q Was Mr. Hall ill at that time? A Yes, he was ill.

Q In bed here at the house? A Yes.

Q You took her to the hospital and made arrangements for her there? A Yes, I took her to the hospital. The doctor made the arrangements.

Q What doctor? A I think Dr. Smith, although I am not sure.

Q Did you stay at the hospital some little time?

A I took her there and then went back the next day and stayed while she was being operated on.

Q Did she ask you to do that?

A I don't know whether I volunteered or whether she asked me.

Q Were your relations with Mrs. Mills cordial? A Yes.

Q You had volunteered to take her to the hospital? A Yes.

Q How long was she in the hospital? A It seems to me it was about three weeks, but again I don't remember.

Q Did you go to see her from time to time during those three weeks? A Yes, frequently.

Q Did Mr. Hall go to see her during those three weeks? A Yes.

Q Did you and he go together? A Sometimes.

Q Sometimes you went alone? A Yes.

Q Was there anything in Mrs. Mills' demeanor when you visited her, either with Mr. Hall or alone, that indicated that she had a relationship with Mr. Hall which was not that normally between a pastor and parishioner?

A Nothing.

Q Or anything in Mr. Hall's demeanor during that period?

A Nothing.

Q Was Charlotte Mills ever present in the hospital room when you were there? A I don't remember ever seeing her there. She might have been, but I don't remember.

Q Did you take Mrs. Mills from the hospital? A Yes.

Q In your car? A Yes.

Q Alone? A Yes.

Q When you got to the Mills house what occurred, Mrs. Hall?

A I went to the door and either called Charlotte or rang; I don't remember; and Charlotte came down and we helped Mrs. Mills out of the car because she was rather weak.

And Mrs. Mills then spoke very strongly about what had been done for her, ~~xx~~ that she felt that her life had been saved by all that had been done for her at the hospital.

Q By whom? A She spoke of me particularly at the time. I don't think she said-- I think she said "to you", telling Charlotte that she could never be grateful enough for all that Mrs. Hall had done for her, words to that effect. I can't quote exactly.

Q Did you go to see Mrs. Mills at her house after that?

A Yes.

Q Did you send her flowers or anything of that kind?

A I don't remember.

Q Did you receive any letter or note or anything written from Mrs. Mills thanking you for what you had done?

A I don't think so.

Q It was just verbal? A Yes.

Q At the time that you took Mrs. Mills out of the hospital was Mr. Mills at the house? A I don't think so.

Q When you brought her home was he at the house?

A I didn't see him if he was.

Q Did you see him at the hospital any time while Mrs. Mills was there? A I have a slight recollection that I saw him just coming or going one day, but I don't remember anything more than that.

Q Did Mrs. Mills ever tell you of the relationship between

herself and Mr. Mills? A Not lately, but she had often spoken of being very unhappy.

Q She said that to you alone? A Yes.

Q Did she say what she meant by being unhappy?

A She found him so disagreeable.

Q Did she say that she had had quarrels with him?

A I am not sure.

Q When making the statements to you about her troubles with Mr. Mills, did she ever, by any indication of any kind, lead you to think that it was due to her relationship with Mr. Hall? A No.

Q Did you ever see in Mr. Hall's possession or anywhere in this house or in the church or elsewhere any notes or other written papers that are alleged to have been written to Mr. Hall by Mrs. Mills? A No.

Q Did you ever see any such papers alleged to have been written by Mr. Hall to Mrs. Mills? A No.

Q When Mr. Hall replied to Mrs. Mills letters at Islesfort did he show you his reply? A No.

Q After Mr. Hall left the house on the evening of September 14 what did you do?

A I played with little Frances for a while and then put her to bed somewhere around nine o'clock, and then returned to the library and sat there reading for some time, think-

ing that any moment Mr. Hall would return, and I went upstairs, well, between ten and half-past I should think.

Q When Mr. Hall left did he take the car with him? A No.

Q He indicated to you that he was going to the Mills house, didn't he? A He merely said that he was going to see about the bill.

Q Did you see Louise Geist after Mr. Hall went out of the house? A I don't recollect, but she probably came down to close the windows.

Q Was it her normal practice to close the windows in the evening? A Yes.

Q Did that include closing the inside shutters? A Yes.

Q They were full-length shutters, were they not, Mrs. Hall?

A I don't know how to describe them.

Q I mean-- A Yes, they covered the whole window.

Q They covered the whole window? A Yes.

Q Old-fashioned shutters? A Yes.

Q Where was Barbara this evening? A It was her evening out.

Q Had Barbara left the house before Mr. Hall left?

A Yes. I rather imagine she went out in the afternoon and did not come home at supper-time, although I am not sure of that.

Q Was she home at supper-time?

A Not that I know of. I am not sure. Sometimes she would

stay away and have supper outside and then come back in the evening, or else she would come back for supper and go out again.

Q At any event, did you see her after she went out in the afternoon that day? A Yes.

Q When did you see her? A I heard her come in, but I did not see her.

Q Was it after you had gone upstairs? A No.

Q Before you had gone upstairs. You have not any distinct recollection of Louise Geist coming down and closing the shutters that evening? A No.

Q You merely think that she did? A I think that she did.

Q What did your brother William do after supper that evening? A Hewent up to his room to smoke, and I think he came down once in the evening to speak to little Frances, but again I am not perfectly sure.

Q And then went on upstairs? A Then went up again.

Q Was it his usual practice to spend the evening in his room? A Yes.

Q Did he usually keep the door closed? A Yes.

Q Was that partly, at least, to keep the tobacco smoke from coming into the house? A Yes, it was.

Q Did he say anything to you that you recall when he came downstairs? A No.

- Q You think it was merely to say "Good night" to little Frances? A I am not even positive that he came down, but I have a dim recollection that he did come down and come into the library for a few minutes to speak to us, but what he spoke to us of I don't remember.
- Q Did any telephone calls come to the house that evening after Mr. Hall left? A I think not.
- Q Did you telephone Mr. Henry Carpenter that evening?
- A No.
- Q Did you telephone your brother Henry Stevens that evening?
- A I did not.
- Q Did you telephone any one? A I don't think I did; no.
- Q Did you telephone Mr. Gorsline? A I did not.
- Q Did you telephone Mrs. Minnie Clark? A No.
- Q You went upstairs, you think, between ten and ten-thirty?
- A Well, by ten-thirty anyway.
- Q And between the time that little Frances went to bed and the time that you went upstairs you were sitting in the library? A Yes.
- Q And the library is the room on the left of the front room on the left of the house as you enter? A Yes.
- Q Did you prepare to go to bed? A Yes.
- Q And did you get in bed? A Yes. I got in bed.

- Q Then what did you do? A I sat there and read.
- Q The light was on in your room? A The light was on.
- Q How long did you read? A I read for a while. Then I got up and walked around the house.
- Q Did you come downstairs? A I came down the stairs. As it got later I began to get worried.
- Q Had Mr. Hall ever previously stayed out late in the evenings without your knowing where he was? A Never.
- Q After you had come downstairs what did you do? Did you stay downstairs any length of time?
- A No. I just came down and looked around the house.
- Q Did you turn the light on downstairs?
- A I left the light burning all the time.
- Q Downstairs? A Yes. There was a light in the hall all the time.
- Q Did you leave the light burning in the hall that night?
- A Yes.
- Q And was the light in your room burning all night?
- A I think it was turned off for about half an hour possibly.
- Q When? A Toward morning.
- Q What do you mean? What time? A Well, perhaps around three o'clock, about four o'clock.
- Q After you went upstairs again did you go to bed again?
- A I did.
- Q Did you go to sleep? A No.

Q Were you awake all that night?

A I was awake all night.

Q What next did you do? A After walking around the house several times and getting more and more nervous about where Mr. Hall was, finally at half-past two I became perfectly desperate to know what had happened, and went to my brother's room and called him and told him that Mr. Hall was not at home and I was going down to see if by any chance he was in the church and had fallen asleep there in his study.

Q Did you open William's door? A I knocked and called him.

Q How do you know it was about two-thirty?

A Because I looked at the clock. I had been watching the clock all night.

Q Which clock was it? A The clock in my own room.

Q A little bedroom clock? A Yes. I would not say it was absolutely accurate, but it was two-thirty by my clock.

Q Well, it was approximately correct? A Yes, it was approximate.

Q Did you then dress? A I did.

Q What did you put on, Mrs. Hall?

A I put on some dress; I don't know what. I dressed regu-

larly, put on a gray coat and a brown hat.

Q A gray coat and a brown hat? A A gray coat and a brown hat.

Q Did that gray coat reach about to your knees, or was it longer? A A little longer than that, I think.

Q Was it an old coat? A No, I had only had it recently.

Q It was a new coat? A A new coat.

Q Do you remember what it cost? A It cost twelve dollars.

Q Where did you buy it? A I bought it over at the knitting mills across the river.

Q What is the name of it? Do you remember?

A I think it is the New Brunswick Knitting Company.

Q Was that a light, small coat? A Yes.

Q Is that the coat that you subsequently had dyed? A No.

Q What became of that coat that you wore that night?

A Someone from the prosecutor's office took it and I never had it returned.

Q You never have had it returned? A No.

Q You had on a brown hat? A Yes.

Q Did your brother William dress also? A Yes.

Q Will you read over this statement that you gave me in 1922 as to what you did and where you went when you and your brother went out of the house, and tell me if it is a correct statement? A Yes.

P29

(The statement reads as follows: 1922 STATEMENT OF MR. HALL TO MR. PFRIFFER OF HER COURSE AT ABOUT 2.30 A. M. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH.

Out front door, around side of house on left, out back gate to the left on Redmond Street to Jones Avenue, down Jones Avenue to George Street, down George Street on left hand side of street to Commercial Street, then across to right side of George Street and down George Street to Church.

Went in upper gate. Willie tried Sunday School door. It was locked. Saw no light in Sunday School room. Came out almost at once by same gate, then continued down George Street to Carmen Street, then up Carmen Street to Abeel Street, looked up at Mills house on corner, saw no light, walked fast around corner on Abeel Street and saw no light on that side of house; then came back to my house by same route.

Came in rear gate around George Street side of house and in front door. Mrs. Hall and Willie came in practically together. Mrs. Hall thinks she walked in a little ahead. She thinks it was about 2.50 A. M. when she got up. She had not been asleep at all. She went up stairs at 10.30 P. M. and usually stayed awake until Mr. Hall came home.)

Q Mrs. Hall, had you reread that statement in this 1926 investigation before I showed it to you just now?

A I don't think so.

Q After you returned to the house what did you do?

A I went upstairs and went back to bed.

Q Did you go to sleep? A No.

Q Did William go to his room? A Yes.

Q What was the next thing that occurred?

A Early in the morning, possibly at seven o'clock, I don't remember the time, I telephoned to the police. I don't think I telephoned in the night; I don't remember. I think it was early in the morning around seven o'clock that I telephoned to the police station and asked if there had been any accident. I did not give my name.

Q Why not? A I thought I could get the information just by not giving it. I merely asked if there had been any accident, anything had been reported.

Q What did they say? A They said nothing had been reported there.

Q Did they ask for your name? A No.

Q Then what did you do? A I think it was then I went out in the car, not at once, a little later.

Q Which car? A The Dodge.

Q And where did you go? A I went down past the

church, to the church to see if anything had happened, and I can't remember whether I saw Mr. Mills at the door of the church or whether I went in and saw him inside and afterwards talked to him at the door. I don't remember.

Q What was the conversation? A I asked him if there had been any one ill at his house and he said no and then I said that Mr. Hall had been away all night and he said so and his wife.

Q Did he appear nervous or agitated?

A Not that I remember.

Q Did he say to you, "Do you think they eloped"?

A I don't remember his saying that. I heard afterwards that he said he said that, but I don't remember any more of the conversation now.

Q Except the fact that you told him that Mr. Hall had been away all night and he said his wife had been away all night? A Yes.

Q Where did you go then?

A I think I came home, and I don't remember now whether that was soon after seven or whether it was nine or whether it was after breakfast. I can't remember.

Q Did you ask Mr. Mills if Mr. Hall had been to his house on the preceding evening? A Yes.

Q What did he say? A No.

P32

Q Did you then come home and telephone Mr. Hall's sisters?

A I came home and I went downtown and I telephoned from downtown.

Q You drove downtown again? A I drove downtown, yes.

Q Do you know where you telephoned from?

A I think I telephoned from Hoagland's drugstore.

Q Whom did you telephone to? A Mrs. Voorhees.

Q In Jersey City? A In Jersey City.

Q What did you say to her?

A I told her that Mr. Hall had gone out the evening before and had not come back and I had absolutely no idea where he was and was quite frantic about it.

Q Did you tell her that Mrs. Mills was missing?

A I don't remember.

Q What did Mrs. Voorhees say? A She said she would come on over.

Q Did you ask her to get in touch with Mr. Hall's other sister, Mrs. Bonner? A I don't remember whether she volunteered that or whether I asked her.

Q Did she say what train she would take? A Yes.

Q Then did you come back to the house again?

A I came back to the house.

Q Did you stop at the Mills house on the way up?

A Not then.

Q You came home? A I came home.

- Q Do you remember what you did? A No.
- Q Mrs. Hall, to go back for a moment, were you preserving on Thursday afternoon? A Yes.
- Q Who else was here in the house?
- A The servants. You mean who came in?
- Q Yes. A Mrs. Clark came in in the afternoon with Marion Stokes. They came to take some photographs in the garden and came in the kitchen door just to speak to me. They weren't there very long.
- Q Why did they come here to take a photograph of Marion Stokes? A Because they thought the garden would make a pretty background.
- Q Was she graduating from school?
- A Yes. They wanted her with her graduation dress and they thought the garden would make a pretty background.
- Q Do you recall your conversation with Mrs. Clark?
- A No. We said something about what I was doing, the preserving.
- Q What were you preserving? A I think pears. I think I was putting up pears and chili sauce.
- Q Mrs. Clark and Marion Stokes went in the kitchen, then, just for a few minutes? A Just a short time, yes.
- Q You had no particular conversation? A No.
- Q Then after the photographs were taken did they come back

P 34

in the kitchen? A I don't think so. I think they only came one time. Whether it was before or after I don't know.

Q Did Mrs. Mills come to the house that afternoon?

A No.

Q After you had telephoned to Mrs. Voorhees and come back to the house what did you do between the time that you got here and when you left to meet Mrs. Voorhees?

A I don't remember. Just household.

Q Did you communicate with any of your own family?

A No.

Q The first person that you communicated with other than the police was Mr. Hall's sister, Mrs. Voorhees? A Yes.

Q Was your relationship with the Carpenter men living in New Brunswick close? A Not very intimate.

Q Were your friends mutual?

A We had many mutual friends, but we weren't intimate with the same ones.

Q The Carpenters were all younger than you were, were they not? A Yes.

Q And many of your friends were rather closely identified with church work, were they not? A No, not so particularly.

Q Just describe what your friends were, Mrs. Hall. In the

first place were they for the most part older than the Carpenders? A Yes. They were friends who were of my own age, and many of them, my more intimate friends, did not live here in New Brunswick.

Q So you weren't normally a member of dinner parties given by the Carpenders, were you? A No.

Q Did it occur to you that it would be helpful to get in touch with any of the Carpenter men at that stage of the situation? A No.

Q You thought that the first thing to do was to get in touch with Mr. Hall's sisters? A I telephoned to them first.

Q Then you went downtown in the Dodge or Case car?

A- The Dodge.

Q And whom did you meet? A I met Mrs. Voorhees and Mrs. Bonner at the station.

Q Do you remember what you said to them?

A I simply reiterated the fact that Mr. Hall had gone out the evening before and that he had not returned. As I remember they asked me if I had any ideas on the subject about it. I said I hadn't any idea what could have happened.

Q Did you then tell them that Mrs. Mills was also missing?

A Yes, I must have. I don't remember the conversation.

Q Do you remember Mrs. Bonner saying to you, "Frances, do

P 36

you think there could have been anything between them?"

A Yes, later I think that was.

Q Do you remember your reply? A I remember I was perfectly sure there was nothing, or words to that effect.

Q On your way up from the station with Mrs. Bonner and Mrs. Voorhees did you stop at the Mills house?

A Yes.

Q What occurred there? A I went up the outside steps and saw Mr. Mills at the top of the steps and asked him if he had heard anything, if his wife had returned, and he said no, and he had heard nothing, and I said I knew nothing more, and that was the extent of that conversation.

Q Was there any apparent change in his equanimity?

A I don't remember that there was.

Q Then you came down and got in the car again? A Yes.

Q Mrs. Voorhees and Mrs. Bonner stayed in the car?

A Yes.

Q You came directly to the house? A Directly to the house.

Q And did Mrs. Bonner and Mrs. Voorhees stay here during the afternoon? A Yes.

Q Do you remember one of them saying anything about the

p 37

desirability of looking over Mr. Hall's checkbook to see if he had withdrawn any amount of money?

A Yes, there was something of that kind said.

Q Did you look at the checkbook? A Yes.

Q What did you find? A There was nothing unusual about it at all.

Q No unusual sum of money had been drawn out?

A Nothing. I also looked about his possessions if any of his things were gone that would indicate he had any idea of going away, and everything was in a perfectly usual condition.

Q Did you search his desk? A I doubt it.

Q Well, did you find anything among his possessions or anywhere that was in the nature of a note or writing or anything else that had passed between him and Mrs. Mills?

A Nothing.

Q What did you do during the afternoon?

A After lunch-- We had discussed what we could do and came to the conclusion that we should get a lawyer to do whatever was necessary. I didn't know what to do.

Q What were, as near as you can describe, Mrs. Hall, your feelings, your state of mind on Friday at this time?

A Well, I was perfectly frantic. I could not imagine.

My only thought that there must have been some accident,

that he was delayed, either unconscious--well, injured so that he could not communicate with me; that he was in a position where he could not possibly communicate with me; and I could think of nothing but an accident. That there had been anything like foul play never entered my head.

Q What was your object in thinking of a lawyer?

A Because it seemed that if we had to go to the police and have an investigation made that a lawyer would understand how to do it better than I.

Q Was there any discussion as to who the lawyer should be that you would call up? A Yes, we talked about it.

Q Was it you who suggested Mr. Florance? A Yes.

Q Why did you suggest him? A Because I had had just recently had some business with him very shortly before that.

Q In what connection? A In connection with my aunt's estate, Mrs. Hart.

Q Mrs. Hall, did Mr. Hall to your knowledge employ detectives or investigators or anything of that sort for any purpose prior to his death? A Never.

Q Did you ever hear him say that he had employed anybody to protect Mrs. Mills or himself? A Never.

Q Was there anything in Mr. Hall's checkbooks or the state

of his securities that showed that he had paid out any sum of money for any such purpose? A Nothing. Nothing at all.

Q Prior to his death did you employ detectives or investigators or anything of that sort to trace his relations with Mrs. Mills? A No. Nothing.

Q Or for any other purpose? A Never for any purpose whatever.

Q Did you call Mr. Florance on the telephone? A Yes.

Q And thereafter did he come to the house? A Yes.

Q Did you explain to him that Mr. Hall was missing and that Mrs. Mills was missing? A Yes.

Q Did you ask his advice? A Yes.

Q What did he say? A I don't know. I don't think he said much of anything.

Q You mean he had no concrete suggestions to make? A No.

Q Did you tell him that you had called up the police?

A Yes, and I spoke up. I said I thought we must put it in the hands of the police as he was gone and I asked him if he would do that, if he would see about it. I didn't know how to go about it, what to do.

Q What did he say? A Well, he said, "If it goes to the police it will all be in the newspapers." And then I asked him what he could do and I don't remember that

p40

he volunteered anything.

Q About what time was it that he came up here, do you know?

A I should think around three o'clock.

Q Were Mrs. Voorhees and Mrs. Bonner present when you were talking to him? A Yes.

Q Was it decided that he would get in touch with you, or what? A Yes, he was to do whatever he thought was best.

Q Was it the conclusion that there was nothing to be done by him? A I told him that he must see about the police, and he hesitated over it, and I don't remember whether he finally said he would or not.

Q Do you remember walking upstairs in the hall with Mrs. Bonner Friday afternoon, just going back and forth?

A Yes.

Q Do you remember anything she said to you while you were there with her? A After we were talking she said that Frankie thinks he must be dead.

Q Frankie being the nickname of Mrs. Frances Voorhees?

A Yes, Mrs. Frances Voorhees.

Q Did she say why Mrs. Voorhees thought that?

A Simply because there was no other explanation of his not coming home.

Q Or not notifying you? A Not notifying. She felt

p41

as I did, that if it were a possible thing, if he had been detained in any way, if it were possible to let me know he would have done it, and as he had not let me know anything, she thought, "It seems as if he must be dead."

Q Mrs. Hall, did you think the same thing yourself by that time? A I didn't know what to think. I thought he might have been killed in an accident.

Q Do you remember anything else that was said by Mrs. Bonner or Mrs. Voorhees or yourself that afternoon?

A We spoke about taking little Frances home and Mrs. Bonner said that she could not stay over night as she had engagements the next morning.

Q Meaning herself? A Yes. And we discussed taking Mrs. Hall, Sr., back to Jersey City.

Q Did you tell them that it was ^{not} necessary for them to stay here at the house that night? A Yes.

Q Did they offer to stay? A They both wanted to stay, but Mrs. Voorhees thought it would be better for her to take her mother and Frances back to Jersey City, and I said I was willing to stay here alone.

Q So later in the afternoon Mrs. Voorhees and little Frances did leave? A Yes.

Q Did Mrs. Bonner go with them at the same time?

A I don't think so.

Q But she did leave that afternoon? A She did, yes.

Q She did not stay to supper that evening?

A I don't remember.

Q Do you remember who did have supper here at the house that evening? A My brother and I, and I don't remember whether Mrs. Bonner stayed or not.

Q But in any event Mrs. Bonner left and was not here over that night? A Yes.

Q Did you talk with Mr. Florence again that day?

A Not unless we telephoned. I don't remember that. My mind is very hazy about these days.

Q Were you out in the afternoon at all--in the car, I mean?

A No. I was not away from the house that afternoon.

Q And after supper were you out of the house at all, away from the house? A I don't think so.

Q Do you remember any telephone calls Friday evening?

A I don't remember any.

Q Did any of the family come in Friday at all, that you remember? A I don't think so.

Q Do you remember Mrs. Minnie Clark being around the house at all on Friday? A Someone told me that she was here, but I don't think I saw her.

Q Do you remember that she was about?

p43

A She came back and said--I think I heard this afterwards-- that the photographs were not good and they came back for some more, but they did not trouble me, just went in the garden.

Q Did anybody come in the house Friday evening?

A I don't remember.

Q Do you remember what time you went to bed Friday evening?

A I presume around half-past ten or eleven.

Q Did you sleep very much? A No.

Q Did you leave the light on in your room on Friday night?

A I don't think the light in my room was lighted.

Q Did you leave the lights on downstairs? A Yes.

Q That night? A That night.

Q Did you still hope that Mr. Hall might possibly come home?

A I hoped, but it did not seem possible.

Q Do you remember saying yourself to any one of the servants or any one else on Friday that he must be dead or he would be home? A No, I don't remember that at all.

Q You are not sure whether you did or not?

A I don't think I did. I don't remember it ^{at} all.

Q You are not, of course, able to say definitely when you came to the conclusion that he must be dead or he would have come home? A No. Through that day.

Q Do you think it was after your conversation with Mrs.

Bonner? A I don't know. I think so, though, because I had the feeling that he might, that something had happened. He might be injured.

Q Then did you sleep very much Friday night?

A No, I did not.

Q Did you receive any telephone calls during the night?

A No.

Q Did you put in any telephone call during the night?

A No.

Q You are not able to recall whether you heard from Mr. Florance again a second time on Friday?

A I rather think that he either telephoned to me, but I don't remember what he said. It was something about the police, I think, or that he would speak to them or would not; I don't remember. They are hard to remember, those dates.

Q What did you do Saturday morning, Mrs. Hall?

A I telephoned to Edwin Carpenter.

Q Before that had you heard from Mr. Florance on Saturday?

A I don't think so.

Q Do you remember about what time you telephoned Edwin Carpenter? A Not later than nine, I should think.

Q What did you tell him? A I said that I wanted to see him and asked him if he would come here.

p45

Q Were the Edwin Carpenders more intimate with you than the other Carpenders? A Rather more so.

Q They lived right across the street?

A Yes. The children were here so much. I used to see them.

Q Did Mr. Carpenter then come over? A He came over.

Q What did you tell him?

A I told him that Edward had gone out Thursday evening and had never come back and I had no idea where he was, and I was nearly frantic about it.

Q Did you say that you had communicated with Mrs. Bonner and Mrs. Voorhees? A Yes, I told him then what I had done.

Q You told him then about Mr. Florence? A I think so. I must have.

Q Did he suggest doing anything? A I don't remember that he did.

Q Did you ask him to do anything in particular?

A I don't remember that I did.

Q Did Mrs. Edwin Carpenter then come over?

A She came over. We were sitting--Edwin and I were sitting on the porch and we were talking and then she came through with the children and he said to her that I wanted to speak to her, and so he took the children and went on and left her with me, and then I told her the same thing.

p46

Q After that what occurred? A Then a little later I went downtown with them.

Q With Mr. and Mrs. Carpender?

A Yes. I can't remember whether Mills came up here before that or not. He came up here that morning. I rather think it was before I went out.

Q But after you had spoken to Mr. Carpender?

A I think so.

Q Do you remember what conversation you had with Mills?

A He asked me if I had heard anything and I said no, and I asked him if he knew anything, and I don't remember anything more of the conversation. He came sometime that morning, but I don't remember when.

Q Did he leave before you went downtown with Mrs. Carpender?

A I think so.

Q Then what did you do downtown?

A I sat in the car while Mr. and Mrs. Carpender did some marketing. They did their own and some for me. And I came back to the house with them, and then I don't remember just the people, which members of the family came in. There was a telephone call from "The Home News."

Q Did you have a telephone call from Mr. Florance on Saturday morning? A I think I must have, but I don't remember anything about it.

P47

Q But you do recall a telephone call from "The Home News"?

A I had the call, yes.

Q What was said?

A They asked me if Mr. Hall was at home. I said, "No."

"Was he away?" I said, "Yes." "Could I give his address?" I said, "No." And then I asked them why they asked me those questions and they said, "We are afraid something has happened to him." And I don't know whether I said, "What has happened?" I think I did, and they said, "Something has happened." And I said, "Oh, don't talk about it. Don't tell me over the telephone." I gathered from their tone that it was something terrible and I did not want it. And they said, "Oh, it is a private wire. It is all right." But then I didn't hear anything more. They may have said, "We will come up and see you," or something like that.

Q Was that after you talked with Mr. Carpenter or before?

A Afterwards.

Q Were the Carpenders here in the house with you at that time? A I think not.

Q Mrs. Hall, did you have any conversation with William about Mr. Hall's disappearance, between two-thirty A. M. Friday morning and the time that you learned of the murder?

p48

A Only just to see that he had not returned, and I was very much distressed, very frantic over it, and I could not imagine what had happened.

Q Then after you got that telephone call do you recall what happened next? A Then some of the family came in--

I don't know just which ones--and about, I think it was about one, perhaps a little later, that Mrs. Edwin Carpender came in.

Q Do you remember, after you got the telephone call from "The Home News, that you called up Mr. Florance and told him about it? A Yes, I did. I remember that.

Q Did you ask him to go to "The Home News" office?

A I think I did.

Q Did you get in touch with Mr. Edwin Carpender then?

A I don't know. That day is very hard to remember.

Q What is the next thing you recall?

A Mrs. Edwin Carpender came in sometime about one, I should say, maybe a little later--I don't remember--and came up to my room where I happened to be and said, "It is what you feared. He is dead. He has been shot."

Q "He has been shot"? A Yes.

Q What did you say? A I don't remember. I don't remember anything more.

Q Did she tell you that Mrs. Mills' body had been found with

Mr. Hall's? A I don't remember any more conversation then. I was just so overcome that I don't remember what was said then.

Q This conversation with Mrs. Edwin Carpender was in your bedroom, Mrs. Hall? A Yes.

Q Do you remember what you did then? Not what you said, but what you did. A I just went and sat down. I was perfectly stunned. I don't know what I did or said any more.

Q Did Mrs. Carpender stay with you?

A For a time, yes.

Q Well, who next came to the house; do you remember?

A Different ones of the family came in, but I really could not tell you. I was upstairs part of the time and part of the time downstairs, and they came in, and somebody told me then that these two had been found, and I think Mr. Florence must have come that day. Edwin said that he had identified them, or identified Mr. Hall.

Q Did he say that Mr. Florence had gone with him?

A I think so.

Q When did Mrs. Edwin come Saturday afternoon, do you know?

A No, I don't remember what time.

Q Sometime during the afternoon? A Yes.

Q When did you first get in touch with Miss Peters?

A I telegraphed to her Saturday afternoon and she telephoned me that evening.

Q What did you say in the telegram?

A I said, "Edward is dead."

Q Is that all? A I might have added, "I am writing," or something of that kind; I don't remember.

Q Was Miss Peters one of your closest friends? A Yes.

Q A lifelong friend? A Yes.

Q You had gone to school with her? A Yes.

Q She had frequently been here at the house?

A Oh, yes.

Q She knew both you and Mr. Hall? A Yes.

Q Miss Peters telephoned you on Saturday afternoon?

A Saturday evening.

Q What was said? A She said that, "Shall I come to you tonight? Shall I come right out?" And I said, "No, don't come tonight." I didn't want her to start out in the evening to come. She came the next morning.

Q And Miss Peters then stayed in the house with you until after the grand jury investigation, did she not, in November? A At intervals. She was not here all the time.

Q She was here most of the time, wasn't she?

A A good deal of the time, yes, but not all of the time.

p51

Q Do you remember Mills coming into the house Saturday afternoon? A I think it was Saturday afternoon he came.

Q Do you recall what happened?

A He seemed very much disturbed, and I don't know whether I said, "Get him some ammonia or something." He seemed almost hysterical.

Q You mean aromatic spirits of ammonia?

A Yes, aromatic spirits of ammonia. Someone got it for him, I don't know. Then he left. But I had telephoned--one other telephone that day was to Mr. Conover.

Q He is an Episcopal minister of Barnardsville? A Yes.

Q And a close friend of yours? A Yes.

Q Did he say he would come over?

A I think I telephoned to him before I knew what had happened and just told him that Mr. Hall had disappeared and I did not know what to think, and he said he would come, and he came that afternoon I think, and then came back again on Sunday.

Q You first telephoned Mr. Conover Saturday morning, you think? A Yes.

Q Before you had learned of what had happened? A Yes.

Q And he came on Saturday afternoon? A Yes.

Q Was he here Saturday, to supper or tea?

P52

A I don't remember. He may have been; I don't remember.
That day is very confused .

Q Was there any other minister here, Mrs. Hall?

A That came to call?

Q Yes. A That evening Reverend Mr. Mitchell of South
Amboy came in.

Q Was he a friend of Mr. Hall's? A Yes.

Q Had you telephoned him? A No.

Q Had Mr. Conover, do you know?

A I don't know. I think it was Saturday evening he came.
A number of people came Saturday.

Q Do you remember when you saw Mills Saturday morning here
at the house that you said to him, "Something terrible
must have happened"? A I don't recollect it. I don't
recollect what I said to him, but I might have.

Q You are sure that Mr. Conover was here Saturday?

A I am quite sure.

Q Do you recall that Mr. Conover and Mr. Mitchell were
here again on Sunday for supper?

A Mr. Conover came back on Sunday and stayed over night,
but I don't remember whether that was the time Mr.
Mitchell came or not.

Q Do you remember that while you were having supper with
Mr. Conover, Mills came into the house, and that you

said that you thought some clergyman ought to go to his house? A I do remember that he did come, whether it was Saturday or Sunday,--it must have been Sunday,--and someone mentioning--I did not see him--that he came and went over in the other room.

Q Did whoever saw him come back and tell you that Canon Wells had already been at the Mills house?

A That I don't remember.

Q So Mr. Conover stayed here Saturday night with you?

A Yes.

Q Now, Sunday morning do you recall--

A No, he stayed Sunday night.

Q Who stayed Saturday night? A I think Mrs. Bonner must have been here.

Q She came out Saturday afternoon? A I think so.

Q Do you remember your greeting her and her greeting you?

A No, I don't remember now.

Q Do you remember any particular conversation between Mrs. Bonner and yourself on Saturday? A No.

Q Now, on Sunday do you remember who came to the house Sunday morning? A It seems to me as if all the members of my family were here, various members at least, but I could not tell you. I know Miss Ives came, I think that was Sunday.

p54

Q Do you remember asking Mr. Carpenter to go to the church and get Mr. Hall's vestments, on Saturday or Sunday?

A It could not have been Saturday morning. It must have been either Sunday morning or Saturday afternoon. I don't remember when.

Q But you do recall? A I recall a time, yes, because I gave him Mr. Hall's clothes, his ordinary clothes here in the house, and I put them in a paper box and then he was to--I told him that his cossack was at the church.

Q Did you wish to have Mr. Hall buried in his vestments?

A Yes.

Q And that was the reason why you asked Mr. Carpenter to go to the church and get the cossack? A Yes.

Q And the cossack together with the clothes was to be taken to the undertaker's? A Yes.

Q Who made the arrangements for the undertaker, Mrs. Hall?

A I think Edwin Carpenter. I remember his saying, "We have spoken to Mr. Hubbard." He said was that satisfactory to me and I said, "Certainly."

Q Mr. Hubbard was the undertaker who officiated at your mother's funeral? A Yes.

Q Now, do you remember Mr. Beckman and Mr. Totten coming to the house Sunday morning? A Yes.

Q Did they have a stenographer with them? A No.

Q Did Mr. Beckman question you first?

A I think they each questioned me, but I could not tell you.

Q Do you remember what the questioning was about?

A Was about what happened Thursday night and I think Thursday, and Friday too I think.

Q Did you tell them what you had done? A I think so.

Q Do you remember Mr. Totten saying anything about your having been seen out of the house that Friday morning early?

A One of them said to me that,-- while I was telling them what I had been doing,--that a woman had been seen coming in this place early in the morning, and I said, "Yes, I did that." And then I told them just what I had done that early in the morning.

Q How long were they questioning you? Do you remember? I mean, briefly or at length?

A I should say perhaps a half or an hour or something like that.

Q Did they say they would want to question you further, or anything along that line? A I don't remember.

Q Do you remember Mr. Totten saying that he had information that a woman had been seen coming in the house?

A Yes.

Q Did you attempt to conceal from them in any way that you had been out that night?

p56

A No, not at all. He said a woman had been seen coming in and I said I was that woman.

Q Do you remember whether you had got up to the point of that hour, two-thirty A. M. Friday morning, in guiding your movements, before the statement was made that a woman had been seen coming in the house?

A I doubt it. I told them about that evening, Thursday evening, and then they came along in the conversation, a woman had been seen coming in, and I told them that I had come in with my brother, and told them exactly what I had done.

Q Was there anybody else present except yourself and Mr. Beekman and Mr. Totten? A I think not.

Q Did Mr. Beekman or Mr. Totten show you a calling card of Mr. Hall's? A No.

Q Did they show you any papers or anything else?

A They showed me--whether it was then or later--two slips from one of the shops in New York with goods returned, and asked me if I knew anything about them; and I told them that I did; it was a coat and something else that I had bought and Mr. Hall had taken into New York and returned for me, and these were the credit slips.

Q They had been found on his person they said? A Yes.

Q And you explained to him what they were?

A Yes, just what they were.

Q Well, now, did they thereafter question you within the next two or three days? A They questioned me again but I don't remember when.

Q Here at the house? A I think so. I think they were here again.

Q Did you tell them anything about having communicated with Mr. Florance in reciting what you had done?

A I am not sure that Mr. Florance was not there, although I am not perfectly sure.

Q You think he was? A I think he was.

Q You do not recall whether they said they would want to question you further when they left? A No, I don't remember that.

Q Did they question your brother William while they were here Sunday morning? A I don't know.

Q Did you tell them everything you knew, Mrs. Hall, in response to their questions?

A I told them everything I could possibly think of.

Q Did they ask you if you knew of any improper relationship between Mr. Hall and Mrs. Mills? A I don't remember their asking that.

Q Did they make any search of the house on Sunday?

A I don't think so. No, I think it was later that they

p58

searched.

Q Were there many reporters here at the house on Sunday?

A There were several telephone messages, and I don't remember who came.

Q Did you take in any reporters at all Sunday or Saturday either? A I don't think so.

Q Did Mr. Conover stay here all day Sunday?

A No, he came Sunday afternoon.

Q He left Sunday morning and came back Sunday afternoon?

A No, he was only here Saturday afternoon, and he came Sunday afternoon.

Q And stayed overnight Sunday? A And stayed overnight Sunday. I had asked him to take charge of the funeral arrangements.

Q And then he did come Sunday afternoon and stayed Sunday night? A I think it must have been a telephone message sometime Sunday because I remember his saying, "Would you like me to stay over?" And I said I would, very much.

Q And he stayed over Sunday night? A He stayed over Sunday night.

Q Did Mrs. Bonner stay Sunday night?

A I don't think so. I think they all came Monday morning.

Q Do you remember that Mrs. Voorhees brought Mrs. Hall,

P59

Sr., to the house Sunday afternoon? A Yes.

Q Do you remember Mrs. Hall, Sr., greeting you as she came in? A No.

Q You don't recall whether she said, "Frances, I had to come down to see you"? A She said something of that kind, but I could not tell you exactly.

Q Did you and Mrs. Hall, Sr., embrace? A Yes, I am sure we did.

Q Were you and she very fond of each other? A Very.

Q There was an unusually close relationship between you?

A I was devoted to her and I am sure she was to me.

Q Were you present at her death? A Yes.

Q Did Mrs. Voorhees and Mrs. Hall, Sr., then leave Sunday afternoon? A Yes. They came over in the car.

Mrs. Voorhees brought them over. They were all here at luncheon.

Q Then, the funeral was on Monday? A Monday.

Q There was a private service here at the house, was there not? A Just prayers.

Q Who conducted them? Mr. Conover? A Mr. Conover.

Q Then there was the regular funeral service at the church? A Yes.

Q And you attended the funeral service at the church?

A Yes.

p 60

Q Who accompanied you to the church? I mean by that, who was directly beside you? A Douglas Bonner.

Q He had your arm? A Yes.

Q And he is a son of Mrs. Paul Bonner? A Yes.

Q A sister of Mr. Hall? A Yes.

Q Was William with you too? A Yes. Not walking with me at the funeral, but he was present at the funeral.

Q He was nearby? A Oh, yes. I can tell you how they walked together, the different ones.

Q That is all right. With whom did William walk?

A With Miss Peters.

Q Then who was in the automobile with you, which went from the church to the cemetery in Brooklyn?

A Mrs. Bonner, her son Paul Bonner, Douglas Bonner, Mr. Conover.

Q Do you know who was in the car with William?

A I think my brother Henry and his wife and William and Sally Peters were in a car together. I think they were.

Q Mrs. Hall, were there any scratches on your face on the day of the funeral? A There were not.

Q Were there any scratches on your face on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday? A None whatever.

Q Had you engaged in an altercation with anybody on Thursday or Friday or Saturday or Sunday? A I had not.

Q You were heavily veiled, of course, at the funeral?

A Yes.

Q Do you recall lifting your veil at all?

A Not during the funeral.

Q But you were seen by many persons, of course, on that day? A Oh, yes.

Q The interment was where? A Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn.

Q Is that the family burial plot? A Yes, the Stevens family.

Q Several generations of the Stevens family? A Yes.

Q Did you get out of the automobile at the interment?

A Yes.

Q Was there a ceremony at the interment? A Yes.

Q Who conducted that? A Mr. Conover.

Q Do you recall your brother Henry coming to you at the cemetery and asking you where you wished Mr. Hall's coffin to be placed in the family vault? A Yes.

Q What do you recall?

A He asked me and I told him that I would like, if possible, to be buried near my mother, but in any case it must be in such a way that I could be buried next to Mr. Hall.

Q Then do you remember your brother coming back and telling you that there would not be room on the shelf for both

p62

Mr. Hall and yourself alongside your mother?

A Yes.

Q What did you then say? A I said well, whatever it is. Anyway it will be satisfactory as long as the two places are together.

Q Meaning by that for Mr. Hall and yourself to be next to each other? A Yes.

Q Did you return to New Brunswick then after the funeral?

A Yes.

Q After the interment? A Yes.

Q Who came back with you? A I think my brother and his wife came.

Q Henry? A Henry. And I think Mrs. Bonner must have come back.

Q And Miss Peters? A And Miss Peters, yes, and of course my brother William.

Q Did you have any further conversations or any conversations by telephone or otherwise with Mr. Florence after the funeral? A I don't remember that day. There were some other conversations after that, but I could not tell you what they were.

Q What was the nature of them? A If there was any investigation to be made; and I think he came up here once.

Q Did Miss Peters go to see him two or three times?

A Yes, she did.

Q What conclusion did you come to? A About?

Q Mr. Florance. A It seemed to me that something ought to be done. He ought to be here to help in any way that could be done and he did not come, and she went down to see what his advice would be, and then about making a statement if there should be any statement made in the paper.

Q Did he advise against making a statement in the paper?

A He would not give any advice at all.

Q Not at all? A As far as I can understand.

Q After that did you have a conversation with Miss Peters about getting some other lawyer? A Yes.

Q What did Miss Peters suggest? A She suggested that we get someone else.

Q Did she say that she knew of a lawyer whom she could consult? A Yes.

Q Who was that? A Mr. James Reynolds.

Q James Bronson Reynolds? A James Bronson Reynolds.

Q Was he an old friend of Miss Peters? A Yes.

Q Had you known him? A No. I had met him but did not know him at all intimately.

Q Is Mr. Reynolds now dead? A Yes.

p 64

Q Did Mr. Reynolds come to the house here in response to the request of Mr. Peters? A She went. She met him somewhere first.

Q In Philadelphia? A I think so.

Q And then what? A And then she discussed the question with him and he said that it was very advisable to have someone else and thought perhaps it would be better to have someone not from New Brunswick.

Q Did he say why? A I don't remember. I could not say just what.

Q Thereafter did Mr. Reynolds come to your house here?

A Yes, he came here later.

Q And what did he suggest then?

A Then he suggested to Miss Peters,--he gave Miss Peters Mr. Pfeiffer's name as being one that he would advise calling upon.

Q Do you remember how long after the 14th of September it was that Mr. Reynolds and I were here in the house?

A I think it was about ten days, about the 24th.

Q Wasn't it September 26, Mrs. Hall?

A Twenty-sixth. I am not sure.

Q It was somewhere around the 24th or 26th?

A Yes. Not before the 24th and possibly the 26th.

Q And it was before two weeks had elapsed after the murder,

p 65

was it not? A Yes, I think it was about ten days.

Q Do you recall that it was less than two weeks because of the fact that Mr. Hall's will could not be probated until two weeks had elapsed?

A Yes. I know it was certainly not two weeks, and I should have said about ten or twelve days.

Q Do you remember my coming here and, in the presence of Mr. Reynolds, Miss Peters, William, and yourself, discussing the question of my being retained in the case?

A I do. Mrs. Bonner was here also, and my brother Henry. I am not sure whether Henry's wife was here that night or not.

Q Are you able to recall what was finally arranged to be done? A After discussing the question, you and

Mr. Reynolds went in the other room and we discussed it without you for a while and came to the conclusion that we would be very well satisfied to call Mr. Pfeiffer.

Q Do you remember what it was that I was retained for?

A How shall I put it? To investigate the case, investigate this murder.

Q Well, it was to find out who had committed the murder, if possible, wasn't it? A Yes.

Q Do you remember my asking you whether you knew if Mr. Hall had had any enemies at any time in his career?

p 66

A Yes.

Q And your reply that you knew of none? A I remember it.

Q And then do you remember a discussion as to whether or not Mrs. Mills might have had any enemies?

A Yes, I think I remember that too.

Q And do you recall that there was some discussion that Mrs. Mills might have had some events in her life that you were not certain about? A Yes, there was something of that kind spoken of.

Q Do you recall that it was then agreed that the thing to do was to investigate Mrs. Mills' past for the purpose of ascertaining if there was anything in it which might have caused someone to commit the murder?

A Yes, there was some talk of that kind.

Q Do you remember that I told you that it would be necessary to engage an investigator to seek the facts in that connection? A Yes. Yes, I think it was then.

Q Do you remember that I then said that I thought it was probable it would take some time, and that the arrangements which were entered into covered a period of a month? A Yes.

Q And that we would then see what the situation was at the end of that period? A Yes, I do remember that.

pl 7

Q And do you remember that my retainer for the one month was \$2,500? A I do.

Q Do you remember that shortly after I came into the case I told you that I thought it would be wise to have a man here at nights for the purpose of guarding the property?

A I do.

Q And in that connection was a man named Fisher here from that time until after the grand jury investigation was over? A He was here for some time. I don't remember just when he came, but he was here for some time.

Q You remember, of course, my bringing Mr. DiMartini out as the investigator whom I had employed to look into the facts of the case? A I do.

Q Did Mr. DiMartini live in this house? A He did not.

Q Have you any idea how many nights he spent here in the Fall of 1922, approximately?

A Possibly a dozen, at intervals.

Q Did he stay here chiefly because he was engaged in investigations in New Brunswick and was here late at night and could not get back to his home in Brooklyn?

A Yes, usually.

Q He ate a good many meals here, didn't he, Mrs. Hall?

A Yes.

Q Did he have many conferences with your brother William?

plg

A Yes, a great many.

Q And with Louise Geist? A Yes.

Q And with Barbara Tough? A Yes.

Q Peter Tumulty? A I presume so.

Q And with yourself? A Yes, many conferences.

Q Did Mr. DiMartini ever suggest to you that you should conceal anything? A Never.

Q Did Mr. DiMartini ever tell you that he had suggested to any person with whom he had communicated concerning the case that he had attempted to intimidate them or get them to do anything but tell the whole truth?

A Never made any such suggestion.

Q Were you satisfied with the work that Mr. DiMartini did?

A Perfectly.

Q Was there anything that ever occurred, in your knowledge of Mr. DiMartini, that led you to think that he had done anything improper? A Never anything.

Q Was the impression that he created on you, on the other hand, quite the contrary? A Quite the contrary.

Q After I came into the case did Mr. Florance have anything whatever to do with it in any way? A No, I think not.

Q From the time that you came to me I was completely in charge, was I not? A You were in charge.

Q Mrs. Hall, are you able to recall the total amount of

169

money which was expended by you in 1922 in connection with the investigation of this case, both for attorney's fees and investigation? A About \$13,000.

Q Was it not \$13,510.82? A Yes, \$13,510.82.

Q Was all of that money disbursed by you through me?

A All of it.

Q Do you recall how many nights I stayed in this house in the Fall of 1922?

A Either two or three, not more than that.

* * *